

**From:** gfonda  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

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To Whom It May Concern:

The proposed Microsoft Settlement should be accepted and this case should be ended once and for all. I have used Windows products since the late 1980s and find it remarkable that the government of my country brought this suit in the first place and inconceivable that a group of only nine states refuse to let it end. The current settlement more than adequately penalizes Microsoft in a way that will be beneficial to its competitors. In other words, if there ever was a lack of competition in the computer software market, this settlement will restore it.

I personally enjoy the convenience and cost effectiveness of having an operating system that can do multiple things. Some would like to freeze in time the definition of what is and what is not an operating system and that is ridiculous. The world does not stand still, it is always moving, and the world of technology moves twice as fast. I can't imagine a current day operating system without a graphical user interface or one without the ability to connect with and understand the Internet. Tomorrow it may be electronic commerce or digital media that we cannot do without. The needs of computer users change and the operating system must be able to change with them. The current settlement allows Microsoft to continue to improve and evolve their operating system as our needs dictate, while providing its competitors with all the information and opportunity they need to create products that compete with Microsoft's own. It further gives the computer manufacturers the power to place any of these competing products right along side of, or in place of Microsoft's offerings. Competitors will have the information they need to create great products and the access they need to get those products in front of consumers. And to make sure all goes as planned, the settlement even includes a provision for a panel of independent monitors to make sure everything is as it should be. I cannot see how either the remaining nine states or even Microsoft's competitors could request anything more. The goal of this case is not to destroy Microsoft, but to help its competitors and one assumes, by extension, us consumers. That

goal is achieved with the current settlement, so please do not let things go any further.

I fear that for some, this case has turned into a contest where the only acceptable outcome is total "victory", defined as the complete deconstruction of Microsoft. As an American I am proud that our country leads the way in the computer software field. These feelings of pride are probably similar to how people felt about the American automotive industry in the 1950s and 1960s. Please do not let the personal feelings and ambitions of a small minority destroy that.

Sincerely,

Greg Fonda